

CLAIMS:

1. A recreational water board for towing a person behind a water craft on or below the surface of the water, the board comprising:

a substantially planar structure, having a pair of wings respectively provided either side of a central axis of symmetry, said structure having a leading edge and a trailing edge, the leading edge of each wing being swept-back to give the board a hydro-dynamically contoured profile;

at least three handgrips arranged symmetrically on the structure to enable the board to be firmly gripped while being towed, a first pair of rear handgrips being provided adjacent the trailing edge of each wing on either side respectively of said central axis and a third rear handgrip being provided adjacent the trailing edge of the structure substantially aligned with said central axis, each of said rear handgrips being provided in substantially the same plane as said planar structure; and

a pair of apertures provided adjacent said leading edge and arranged symmetrically on either side respectively of the central axis for attaching a tow bridle to the board, said pair of apertures defining a pivot axis, perpendicular to said central axis, about which said board may be tilted to enable the user to dive or resurface in the water, in use, depending on the direction of tilt.

2. A recreational water board according to claim 1 wherein said pair of apertures is one of a series provided adjacent to the leading edges respectively of each wing.

3. A recreational water board according to claim 2 wherein each pair of apertures in said series is spaced progressively closer to each other, either side respectively of said central axis, wherein said pivot axis can be adjusted progressively closer to or further away from the front of the board.

4. A recreational water board according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said tow bridle is coupled to a tow rope by means of a swivel device.

5. A recreational water board according to claim 4 wherein the tow bridle comprises a single bridle rope coupled at each end to said pair of apertures, said bridle rope being slidably attached to said swivel device whereby the bridle rope is free to slide through the swivel device, thereby permitting the board to be angled from side to side more easily.
6. A recreational water board according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the trailing edge of the structure has a central cut-out portion adapted to accommodate a person's head when the board is held overhead in use.
7. A recreational water board according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the structure is formed of buoyant material with a specific gravity of typically between 0.5 and 0.75.
8. A recreational water board according to claim 7 wherein the buoyant material has a specific gravity of about 0.6 so that the structure may be relatively lightweight and may readily float to the surface of the water.
9. A recreational water board according to any one of the proceeding claims wherein a second pair of front handgrips are provided on the leading edge of each wing on either side respectively of said central axis.
10. A recreational water board according to claim 9 wherein a third front handgrip may be provided on the leading edge of the structure and located centrally aligned with said third rear handgrip.
11. A recreational water board according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the board further comprises a fin arrangement on an underside of the structure.
12. A recreational water board according to claim 11 wherein the fin arrangement comprises a single fin positioned on an underside of the planar structure.
13. A recreational water board according to claim 11 wherein the fin arrangement comprises a plurality of fins positioned on an underside of the planar structure.

14. A recreational water board according to claim 13 wherein the fin arrangement comprises three fins, a central fin positioned on the central axis of symmetry of the structure, and two outer fins spaced equidistantly from the central fin and substantially parallel to the central axis of symmetry.

15. A recreational water board according to claim 14 wherein the central fin is larger than the outer fins, and wherein the outer fins are of substantially equal size.

16. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 12 to 15 wherein the fins are substantially triangular in shape.

17. A recreational water board according to claim 16 wherein the outer edges of the fins are curved.

18. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein the central fin is positioned in alignment with the third rear handgrip and the outer fins are positioned in alignment with the first pair of rear handgrips.

19. A recreational water board for towing a person behind a water craft on or below the surface of the water, the board comprising:

a substantially planar structure formed of buoyant material, having a pair of wings respectively provided either side of a central axis of symmetry, said structure having a leading edge and a trailing edge, the leading edge of each wing being swept-back to give the board a hydro-dynamically contoured profile;

at least one hand grip on the structure to enable the board to be firmly gripped while being towed;

a fin arrangement comprising three fins on an underside of the structure; a central fin positioned on the central axis of symmetry of the structure, and two outer fins spaced equidistantly from the central fin and substantially parallel to the central axis of symmetry; and,

a pair of apertures provided adjacent said leading edge and arranged symmetrically on either side respectively of the central axis for attaching a tow

rope to the board, said pair of apertures defining a pivot axis, perpendicular to said central axis, about which said board may be tilted to enable the user to dive or resurface in the water, in use, depending on the direction of tilt.

20. A recreational water board according to claim 19 wherein the central fin is larger than the outer fins, and wherein the outer fins are of substantially equal size.

21. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 19 or 20 wherein the trailing edge of the structure has a central cut-out portion adapted to accommodate a person's head when the board is held overhead in use.

22. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 19 to 21 wherein the structure is formed of buoyant material with a specific gravity of typically between 0.5 and 0.75.

23. A recreational water board according to claim 22 wherein the buoyant material has a specific gravity of about 0.6 so that the structure may be relatively lightweight and may readily float to the surface of the water.

24. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 19 to 23 wherein said board further comprises a plurality of hand grips arranged symmetrically on the structure.

25. A recreational water board according to claim 24 wherein a first pair of rear hand grips is provided adjacent the trailing edge of each wing on either side respectively of said cut-out portion.

26. A recreational water board according to claim 25 wherein a third rear handgrip is provided adjacent the trailing edge of the structure and located centrally of said cut-out portion substantially aligned with said central axis.

27. A recreational water board according to claim 26 wherein the central fin is positioned in alignment with the third rear handgrip and the outer fins are positioned in alignment with the first pair of rear handgrips.

28. A recreational water board according to any one of claims 25 to 27 wherein a second pair of front handgrips is provided on the leading edge of each wing on either side respectively of said central axis.

29. A recreational water board according to claim 28 wherein a third front handgrip may be provided on the leading edge of the structure and located centrally aligned with said third rear handgrip.

30. A recreational water board substantially as herein described with reference to and as illustrated in any one or more of the accompanying drawings.